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APPLICATION NO	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO	CONFIRMATION NO
09 655,477	09 05 2000	Richard P. McClellan	20 137	7870

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EXAMINER

NOWLIN, APRIL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	2876

DATE MAILED: 03 29 2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/655,477	MCCLELLAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	April A. Nowlin	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event however may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133)
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) or (f).

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement (PTO-1449) (if applicable)
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Re claims 1 and 3: Substitute "it" with -- the container detecting circuit -- (see line 13 and 5). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomas (US 5,637,854), cited by the applicant.

Thomas teaches an optical bar code scanner having object detection comprising an object detecting circuit 52, which serves as container detecting circuit as recited in claim 1, having an input connected to a laser reflection sensor to receive the sensor signals, and which generates object detected signals when the object detecting circuit 52 detects the object; a data storage device that stores data representing the output of

generate an object detected signal indicating detection of a container when the

magnitude of the output from the laser reflection sensor increases from a low level representing no container to above a predetermined level which represent reflections from an object 12. The system further comprises a scanning laser source positioned to direct a scanning beam along a path; a laser reflection sensor positioned to detect reflections of the scanning laser beam; and a barcode reader 10 connected to the sensor to detect and read barcodes scanned by the laser beam. (see figures 1-3 and col. 3, line 29 to col. 4, line 64)

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tafoya (US 6,257,490) discloses a barcode scanning system; Girotti (US 6,135,352) discloses an optical reading system; and Iizaka et al. (US 5,679,941) discloses a checkout device.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to April A. Nowlin whose telephone number is (703) 605-1219. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (703) 305-3503. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722

those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [april.nowlin@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

AAN
AAN
March 25, 2002

Karl D. Frech
KARL D. FRECH
PRIMARY EXAMINER